As a small businessman and electronics experimenter, I am concerned what appears would could lead to an effective "lock down" of the use of DTV receivers.

The industries that I primarily work in are the Alarm & Security (Fire & Burglar) and Embedded Systems. From my point of view, I find the universal use of high definition digital television receivers to be a huge entrepreneurial opportunity. My vision of the future home is one where the telephone, television, music center, and Internet access computer are combined into a few units. It is a vision of greater flexibility of the end-user to have more control over the use of that equipment to satisfy their particular needs. This is not only the reception of digital entertainment, but that of information resources as well as personal security (remote monitoring equipment).

The concern that I have is that the implementation of the broadcast flag would be restrictive in either access to the technology to generate such a flag. e.g. That the broadcast flag would only be generated by a chipset, or proprietary software algorithm thereby raising the bar to entry into casual use of the DTV by experimenters and developers. I am an Open Source advocate and believe that the free access to source code is important to the continued innovative development of future digital technology. The concern is that a broadcast flag would restrict the use of current, and future, devices to those with deep pockets to develop and deploy compliant technology or devices.

I do empathize with the holders of intellectual content that they must protect their legally held content, I also am very much aware that some allowance must also exist for "plain vanilla" reception be allowable as well.

We stand on the threshold of an exciting new digital future. The little that we have accomplished in the computer field up to this point is only the tiniest steps into that future. The encumbrances of legal restrictions is not the answer to the woes facing the Digital Content Providers. Why is it that everyone's solution appears to always outlaw "bad" technologies and not to innovate solutions?

If the Digital Content Providers are concerned about copy protection, then why cannot they use a technology such as IP Tunneling and SSH? Probably the answer to that one is that the financial burden on their industry would be too great a cost to bear, so they take the easy way out and simply make all DTV devices illegal unless they receive the "blessing" of their industry.

Content protection yes, but also with the unrestricted rendering of non-protected content as well.

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